

Resolution on the Catholic-Jesuit Mission of Creighton University
Approved by Academic Council
October 25, 2007

I. PREAMBLE

- A. Creighton University is a Catholic and Jesuit university that endeavors to implement its faith-based identity in its academic missions of teaching, scholarship and service.
- B. All academic programs at Creighton University share in this endeavor, in a manner and to a degree consistent with the specific discipline.
- C. As Catholic, the university is inspired by the living tradition of the Catholic Church¹ in its search for, discovery, preservation and communication of the truth, which is inevitably value-centered and ultimately God-centered.²
- D. As Jesuit, the University joins in the principal mission of the Society of Jesus³, which centers on the service of faith and the promotion of justice⁴, particularly for those who live in structurally entrenched poverty.⁵

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. *Regarding the Faculty*

- 1. All faculty members at Creighton University shall be familiar with the Catholic and Jesuit tradition of higher education and scholarship. The Administration shall provide print or electronic copies of all relevant documents.
- 2. All faculty members shall be
 - 2.1 encouraged to deepen their understanding of and increase their competence in higher education and scholarship in the Catholic and Jesuit tradition;
 - 2.2 provided the means for gaining this competence and understanding, through participation in such activities as the Faculty Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education, the Heartland Conferences, Faculty Conversations, and the Spiritual Exercises; and
 - 2.3 recognized in areas such as the rank and tenure process for their implementation of the University Mission.

B. *Regarding Teaching and Curriculum*

- 1. Where pertinent to their subject matter, all instructors shall highlight mission-based issues, such as ethics, justice, and faith-related perspectives in their courses in order to contribute to the overall value-centered education of the students.

2. Each degree-granting division of Creighton University shall incorporate into its curricula a required course specifically intended to foster the moral development of students.
 - 2.1 This required course generally shall be in the discipline of ethics and/or moral reasoning, that is, the systematic and critical examination of the normative and value-centered aspects of life. However, a College or School may also elect to offer a course in a different discipline, provided that course is designed to ensure the development of awareness and moral competency in the students.
 - 2.2 In integrating diverse ethical perspectives while respecting individual moral convictions, this course shall seek to address Judeo-Christian traditions in ethics, draw from Catholic social justice teachings, and increase students' understanding of and concern about structural injustices.
 - 2.3 When appropriate, this course shall also prepare students to address competently the ethical challenges that are likely to arise in students' chosen occupation or profession. Thus, this course may serve to meet specific competency requirements stipulated by professional accreditation agencies. A course designed to meet such professional requirements does not automatically fulfill the educational objectives of the course in moral reasoning required by Creighton University.
 - 2.4 The required course shall be taught as a single continuous course or as a series of course components or educational offerings designed to meet all of the learning objectives stated above.
 - 2.5 The course requirement may be waived for an individual in a degree program of 40 hours or less, if the program director decides that the student has completed a course at the undergraduate level that fulfills the criteria above.

C. *Regarding Scholarship and Research*

1. The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Health Sciences shall ensure that an important factor to be considered in the peer review and prioritization of research grants submitted for internal university funding, be the degree to which a proposed project is likely to contribute to the Catholic and Jesuit mission of Creighton University.

D. *Regarding Administration & Assessment*

1. The Deans of each College or School shall implement this proposal no later than December 2008.
2. The President shall appoint a Resource Committee to advise the Deans on the implementation of this proposal.
3. These recommendations will be implemented for students matriculating in Academic

Year 2009 -2010.

4. The University Assessment Committee shall, assess the implementation of the above recommendations and report to the President and the Academic Council every three years on the implementation of these recommendations in the individual Colleges and Schools.

NOTES

1. "As Catholic, Creighton is dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms and is guided by the living tradition of the Catholic Church." (Creighton University's *Mission Statement*, par. 1)

2. "Without in any way neglecting the acquisition of useful knowledge, a Catholic University is distinguished by its free search for the whole truth about nature, man and God ...By means of a kind of universal humanism a Catholic University is completely dedicated to the research of all aspects of truth in their essential connection with the supreme Truth, who is God. It does this without fear but rather with enthusiasm, dedicating itself to every path of knowledge, aware of being preceded by him who is 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life'..." (JP II: *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, 1990, par 4)

3. "As Jesuit, Creighton participates in the tradition of the Society of Jesus which provides an integrating vision of the world that arises out of a knowledge and love of Jesus Christ" (Creighton University's *Mission Statement*, par. 2).

4. See, for example, PH Kolvenbach: *The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in American Jesuit Higher Education*. Santa Clara University, October 6, 2000.

5. See, for example, Jesuit Conference of the Society of Jesus in the United States: *Assistancy Strategic Discernment - Preparing for the Future*, 2007. See also, Provincials of the United States Assistancy: *A Meditation on Our Response to the Call of Christ*, 2006.

Background:
Resolution on the Catholic-Jesuit Mission of Creighton University
Approved by Academic Council on Oct. 25, 2007

To: Anyone interested

From: Dick Hauser, SJ, Chair of Mission Sub-Committee

Date: March, 2008

The following information will provide a context of the Oct. 25, 2007 Resolution. I am listing the key meetings of the Academic Council; each meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Faculty Caucus which approved the matter to be presented to the Academic Council. I have abridged the data given below. An expanded treatment of the data below is available in electronic form in minutes of the Academic Council.

-- Oct. 26, 2006 Meeting of Academic Council

At the request of Dick Hauser, SJ, the Academic Council established a sub-committee to review the implementation of the resolution passed at April 28, 1983, meeting of the Academic Council requiring that all Creighton degrees have a three hour ethics course or the equivalent. I had introduced the 1983 resolution and had chaired the committee formulating it. As far as I knew the University had never assessed its implementation. The Academic Council approved my request and appointed a member from each college to be on the sub-committee: Marianne Culhane, Law; Neil Norton, Dentistry; Jos Welie, Medicine; Sue Tinley, Nursing; Vic Padron, Pharmacy/Health Professions; Ron Flinn, Business; Deb Ponec, Arts; Margaret Scofield, Graduate School; Dick Hauser, chair, University College. The Academic Council asked the Sub-Committee to report back by March, 2007.

-- Feb. 22, 2007 Meeting of Academic Council

Sub-Committee met several times and submitted its report to the Academic Council on Feb. 22. The Sub-Committee noted that the 1983 Ethics Requirement had been implemented in most, though not all, Creighton degree programs. The Sub-Committee asked the Academic Council to authorize it to continue meeting and to make recommendations for updating the implementation of the 1983 Resolution. The Academic Council gave authorization and asked the Sub-Committee to report back in Fall, 2007.

-- Sept. 27, 2007 Meeting of Academic Council

Sub-Committee met several times and presented a preliminary report and asked for input from the Academic Council on Sept. 27. Academic Council discussed the report and made suggestions to Sub Committee.

-- Oct. 25, 2007 Meeting of the Academic Council

Sub-Committee met and revised report to include input from Sept. 27 meeting. Sub-Committee presented final report on Oct. 25. Report was accepted with but minor recommendations regarding wording and punctuation. Report passed unanimously. Please note section II. D. 2: "The President shall appoint a Resource Committee to advise the Deans on the implementation of this proposal." Subsequent to Oct. 25 meeting Fr. Schlegel appointed the committee: Tim Cook, Education; Kirk Peck, Physical Therapy; Sue Tinley, Nursing; Dick Hauser, SJ, Theology, chair.

Rationale for Resolution

Multiple factors motivated me to request the Academic Council to review 1983 Ethics Resolution and also to request authorization for updating it.

- The 1983 Resolution had never been reviewed for implementation despite the fact an implementation process was built into the Resolution.
- I was aware that 1983 was not being implemented in all Creighton degree programs.
- The context for Jesuit Higher Education had evolved significantly from 1983 to today. I felt it was appropriate for Creighton to review its programs in terms of the present context as given in several recent documents of the Society of Jesus: “Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in American Jesuit Higher Education,” Santa Clara University Address given by Jesuit Superior-General Peter-Hans Kolvenback on Oct. 6, 2000; “Communal Reflection on the Jesuit Mission in Higher Education: A Way of Proceeding,” document published The Board of the Jesuit Conference (Ten American Provincials) on May, 2002; “A Meditation on Our Response to the Call of Christ,” document presenting criteria for all Jesuit ministries published by the Board of the Jesuit Conference on July 31, 2006.
- I was aware that the Accreditation Self-Study Report submitted by Creighton University, Spring, 2007, to the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Commission specifically articulated in the opening paragraph that Creighton’s distinctiveness lies in its fidelity to its Catholic-Jesuit mission: “We who comprise Creighton University are not afraid to hold in tension the best of what a university is and what our Jesuit and Catholic nature brings to the academy and our students and patients.” The Commission, in turn, lauded Creighton for its fidelity to its mission. The Oct. 25, 2007, Resolution adds nothing to Creighton’s mission and identity but simply supports Creighton’s academic community in becoming who we publically proclaim to be.